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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a Senator from the State of Ohio.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, how excellent is Your Name in all the Earth. As our Senators face today's challenges, help them to trust in Your goodness. May their faith in You prompt them to wait for the unfolding of Your providence. Remind them that all things work together for good to those who love You and strive to do Your will. Continue to be their refuge, an ever-present help for life's challenges. Renew their strength, enabling them to soar like an eagle, to run and not be weary, to walk and not faint. Infuse them with a reverential awe that will strengthen them to honor You with their thoughts and words. When facing temptations, enable them to keep themselves pure.

And, Lord, we pause to remember today the supreme sacrifice of Officer Jacob Chestnut and Detective John Gibson, who died defending this Capitol against an armed intruder. Bless the families they left behind with Your divine comfort.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SHERROD BROWN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 24, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a Senator from the State of Ohio, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BROWN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are going to conclude action today—in fact, this morning—on the higher education authorization measure. It is a very important piece of legislation. We have not done this in 3 years. It is important this be completed.

The good news I received walking into the Chamber today is it appears we will not have a vote on final passage. So that is really good work. Further, it underscores my repeated compliments of Senators KENNEDY and ENZI for their true bipartisanship. This is the second bill in a row they have managed, and they have done a tremendously important and good job in getting the bills done in regular order.

Once we complete action on this education matter, we will move to the Homeland Security appropriations bill. Today, at 3:40 p.m., the Senate will observe a moment of silence in memory of Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut. A wreath-laying ceremony will take place at the Memorial Door at 3:30 p.m. I encourage Members to come to the Chamber at 3:40 p.m. to observe this moment of silence.

ORDER FOR MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate observe a moment of silence at 3:40 p.m. today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess today from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. for our weekly party conferences.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING DETECTIVE JOHN GIBSON AND OFFICER J.J. CHESTNUT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to say a brief word about a couple of matters. As we heard in the prayer offered by Admiral Black, some will remember that day 9 years ago when these two officers were killed. I remember it for a number of reasons, not the least of which, when I attended law school, I went to law school during the daytime and worked a full-time swing shift, a night shift, as a Capitol police officer. My service as a Capitol policeman was not one where I showed any bravery or courage or any valor; I was directing traffic much of the time. That was the most dangerous job I did.

But 9 years ago today, two police officers did exemplify courage and valor. These two Capitol police officers, Special Agent Gibson and Officer Jacob Chestnut, were stationed by the east entrance on the House side. At 3:40 in the afternoon, a man with a gun tried

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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